

pancake and sausage breakfasts in an annual fundraising effort. Congregations of all denominations and organizations participated in raising funds this year for the Emergency Housing Coalition and the Hunger Coalition.

The factors that contribute to homelessness, such as joblessness, financial distress, chemical dependency, mental illness, and domestic violence are immensely complicated. Concerns about providing adequate health care and education for those in need weigh heavily on the minds of many. While these problems will not be solved quickly or easily, The Day of Caring highlights that a ground-swell of concern by our communities really can make a difference. The dream of the first Day of Caring Committee was to bring communities together under the common thread of caring and giving of time, talent, and support. It is certainly realized every year on the last Sunday in February in the Miami Valley. I would be wonderful if other communities might also follow the Miami Valley's lead and participate in their own local activities next year on the Day of Caring.

TRIBUTE TO MELVA BUCKSBAUM

HON. NITA M. LOWEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mrs. LOWEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable contributions of Mrs. Melva Bucksbaum. Mrs. Bucksbaum has distinguished herself as a strong supporter of the arts and through her numerous accomplishments has earned the honor of being recognized at the Jewish Museum's "Festa do Brazil", a masked ball in celebration of Purim.

Melva has promoted art throughout the United States and Israel, with a particular dedication to contemporary art and artists. Her generosity toward The Jewish Museum's Legacy Campaigns helped make possible the Museum's expansion and renovation, as well as the creation of a vital endowment fund.

In addition to sitting on the Boards of the Jewish Museum and the Des Moines Art Center, Mrs. Bucksbaum serves with a number of other distinguished institutions: the Graduate School of Design, Harvard University; the International Committee of the Tate Museum, London; the Whitney Museum; American Friends of Israel Museum; Save Venice; the Independent Curator's Association; the Kennedy Center's National Committee for the Performing Arts and the International Council of the Museum of Modern Art. Since 1995, Mrs. Bucksbaum has actively managed the Martin Bucksbaum Family Foundation, which is listed as one of the founders of the United States Holocaust Museum.

Mr. Speaker, on March 4, Melva will be recognized by the Jewish Museum for her years of community service as this year's Purim Ball honoree. It is an honor and a pleasure for me to join the Museum in honoring Melva Bucksbaum on this very special occasion.

FOREST HEALTH AND MANAGEMENT

HON. BOB SCHAFFER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. SCHAFFER of Colorado. Mr. Speaker, each fall, scores of people travel to the high country to witness the changing colors of Colorado's aspen trees. The changing leaves symbolize our state's diverse, scenic environment as well as its thriving economy. Sadly, a recent study by the Club 20 Research Foundation concludes that Colorado's aspen are at a risk due to years of mismanagement by the federal government.

Club 20 was founded in 1953 by various individuals, counties, communities, businesses and associations in Western Colorado. This grass roots organization follows a broad range of issues and provides a valuable forum for considering the many complex and controversial issues facing our state. Club 20 exemplifies local involvement aimed at providing educational, environmental and economic benefits to our state. I applaud their efforts and their research and commend my colleagues to consider Club 20's findings.

James Hubbard, Colorado's State Forester, warns that if the Forest Service continues to manage as they do presently, most of Colorado's aspen trees will disappear within the next forty to fifty years. According to the Forest Service, the average age of aspen in Western Colorado is between 90 and 110 years, well beyond the point at which they mature and begin to deteriorate. Unless the Forest Service adopts an aggressive management regime designed to restore the health of Colorado's aspen trees, our aspen stands will be lost due to disease, insect infestation and decay.

Congress directed the Forest Service to manage forest lands for multiple use and sustained yields. Today, Forest Service practices show a disturbing trend towards a lack of active management. Unfortunately, those practices seem to be driven not by what is best for the forest, but by what group protests the loudest. That dynamic thwarts good policy and prohibits resource management.

The federal government, which controls more than 70% of the land on Colorado's Western Slope, has neglected to manage for the health of our forests. Their neglect is unforgivable given the consensus among foresters that, without active management, aspen trees die off and fail to regenerate.

The Forest Service and the Department of Interior advocate drastic increases in the use of prescribed burns as a management tool. While some advocate prescribed burns as a "natural" alternative to timber management, even proponents concede that prescribed burns fail to regenerate aspen stands, which do not burn easily. Moreover, prescribed burns have serious detrimental effects on air and water quality.

Selective timber harvesting provides an effective alternative to prescribed burns. Small, patch-work timber cuts facilitate the regeneration of aspen stands, provide economic benefits to the state, and enhance wildlife habitat without detrimental effects on air and water quality. Selective cuts of less than 40 acres allow for the regeneration of aspen trees with-

out replanting. Responsible, well-planned cuts diversify forest ecosystems while leaving many large, standing aspens, and providing valuable habitat for wildlife, including many threatened and endangered species.

Timber management requires access to stands in need of regeneration. Unfortunately, the Clinton Administration advocates a "no access" policy to a large portion of our public lands. Well over 34 million acres of our public lands could be off-limits to access for recreation and management under the Administration's proposed forest transportation policy. That decline is particularly disturbing in light of the Clinton Administration's plans to sever a vital link between local communities and their forests by discontinuing timber-based revenues for schools and roads in favor of a formula developed by the federal government.

There are more aspen trees in Colorado than any other state. Aspen are symbolic of the changing seasons in a state that prides itself on a strong economy, a good quality of life, and an appreciation for the out-of-doors. National forests in Colorado account for not only the production of timber but for a large part of the state's economic benefit from recreation and tourism.

The Forest Service's de facto policy of reducing harvests, increasing the risk of catastrophic wildfires, and deteriorating forest health is unacceptable. It is time for the Forest Service to manage the forests as Congress directed it to for multiple use and sustained yields. Such a policy is best for the health of our forests and for the vitality of our state.

Mr. Speaker, I am working closely with my colleagues on the House Resources Committee and the Subcommittee on Forests and Forest Health to ensure that the Forest Service and the Administration hear Colorado's message loud and clear. On February 25th, the subcommittee conducted oversight hearings on the Administration's roadless area moratorium. There, we considered testimony from county commissioners, forestry experts and Forest Service officials on the issue of access to public lands. On March 26th, we will hold another hearing before the House Resources, Budget and Appropriations Committees into the operations, budgeting and management of the Forest Service. There, with my colleagues, I hope to examine better management alternatives and push for positive change. Proper management of our national forests can provide habitat for wildlife as well as recreational and economic resources for America.

STATEMENT OF LYNN EXE

HON. BARNEY FRANK

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, February 26, 1998

Mr. FRANK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, last year in my Congressional Office in Bridgewater, Massachusetts, I met with an eloquent and dedicated patriot, Lynn Exe, who described to me her disappointment at the way in which the Fleet Reserve Association dealt with her insurance situation. At her request, I am entering into the RECORD her description of her objection, and her invitation to the FRA to respond. I do so as Mrs. Exe's Representative in the House, who believes that she as a